



PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Steven R. Hardiman II
Public Information Officer / Department of Public Works
Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis
steve.hardiman@indy.gov P: (317) 327-2053 C: (317) 223-1065
www.indy.gov - [Newsletter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Flickr](#)

CITY LOOKS PAST SUMMER BREEZE TO WINTER FREEZE **MASTER PLOW TRAINING SCHEDULED FROM SEPTEMBER 13 – OCTOBER 15**

INDIANAPOLIS – In spite of predicted 70 degree temperatures today, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is wasting no time in preparing for more frigid conditions ahead. Indy Snowforce drivers began prepping for the 2010 – 2011 winter season with the start of Master Plow today, a winter maintenance training for all Indy Snowforce personnel including operations management, snow truck drivers, auxiliary drivers, equipment operators and snow monitors.

“It may seem early to begin talking about snow removal in Indianapolis, but snow season is right around the corner and coming up fast,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “The men and women of Indy Snowforce worked hard last season to remove more snow and ice from City streets than ever before. We're committed to providing even better service this year.”

The course, which began this week, is designed as a refresher covering topics like Material (De-icer) Usage Procedure, Plowing Techniques, and Driver and Cold Weather Safety in addition to other topics. Experienced drivers attend a four hour course. Drivers with less than two winters of experience will attend four hours of group classroom instruction followed by a half-day of individualized hands on training which includes running actual snow routes, practice putting on plows and salt spreaders and performing dry runs in various snow trucks. Hands on training for less experienced drivers may exceed 8 hours in order to ensure that all drivers are fully prepared for duty. Training will continue through October 15, 2010.

DPW prepares year-round to handle the onslaught of winter weather that will affect more than 7,000 lane miles under the City's jurisdiction. The City's mission is to provide safe streets through efficient and timely snow and ice control. Effective snow and ice control planning includes, but is not limited to, updating policies, procedures and routes; inspecting and repairing equipment; training drivers and laborers; ensuring an adequate salt supply; and coordinating efforts with school transportation officials.

In 2009, the city upgraded the Snowforce fleet with 37 new trucks and added 20 additional snow trucks this spring for a total of 57 brand new trucks, a 60% upgrade of the fleet since 2008. The new trucks replaced the oldest trucks in the fleet, including 1995 and 1997 vehicles.

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